23. Shri Siddarju, M.P.,
Agatha Gowdanahally,
Gundlupet,
Mysore Distt.

Bangalore Tac:

1. Shri Irabhadrappa Lakkanagaov,
S/o Late Sh. Rachappa,
Bijapur, Karnataka.

Note:- Three members are being nominated.

Basic Cellphone Call Rates

6260. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi High Court have refused to grant stay on the department of telecommunications order imposing exorbitant basic cellphone call rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cellular telecom operators have sought his Ministry's intervention in the matter; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) while not granting stay, the Hon'ble Court had directed the petitioners to represent their case before Telecom. Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. But, since the matter became subjudice, the intervention by the Ministry was ruled out.

Telephone Exchange In Barddhaman

6261. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new telephone exchanges have been set up in the district of Barddhaman, West Bengal;

(b) if so, names of those exchanges alongwith their line capacity;

(c) names of those places where new exchanges are likely to be set up during the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The name of the Exchanges opened during 1996-97 with their line capacities are furnished in the Statement attached.

(c) and (d) Not yet been finalised.

Statement

New exchanges opened During 1996-97 (Barddhaman District)

Sl. No.	Name of Exchange	Line (Capacity)
1.	Bidhan Nagar	2000
2.	Rajbandh	256
3.	Gopalmath	256
4.	Gopalpur	256
5.	Balgona	256
6.	Agradwip	256
7.	Madhyamgram	256
8.	Amarun	256
9.	Raina	256
10.	Gangpur	256
11.	Uttar Ramnagar	256
12.	Jhanjra	512

Dropping of Vividh Bharti Broadcast on Hyderabad Air

6262. SHRI L. RAMANA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vividh Bharti has stopped broadcast on medium wave in Hyderabad from April 1, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to restart the same broadcast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to improve the Vividh Bharti Service, broadcast of programmes of this service from different centres is being replaced from Medium Wave to high quality FM Mode. To familiarise the public with FM broadcast, for sometime Medium Wave broadcast is also continued along with FM broadcast. Similarly, the Vividh Bharti Service from Hyderabad was broadcast in both Medium Wave and FM service till 31st March, 1997 and w.e.f. 1st April, 1997, the Medium Wave service was discontinued and the broadcast is being done only in FM service.

Complaints Against Malayalam News Broadcast From Air, New Delhi

6263. SHRI S. AJAY KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many complaints against the